(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken for ensuring remunerative prices to the growers include:—

(1) Licencing auctioneers in places near consumption centres such as Bombay.

(2) Alerting Deptt. of Revenue and all other customs authorities and their field formations against the complaints of alleged smuggling of cardamom from Guatemala through Nepal;

(3) Promotion of cardamom in consumer packs in North and West India; and

(4) Reimbursement of airfreight charges at the rate of Rs. 20 per Kg. for export of small cardamom in consumer packs to Middle east destinations and exemption on payment of cess on export of cardamom.

Central Assistance

557. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tenth Finance Commission has not made recommendations for providing plan revenue deficit grant to some States;

(b) whether some States are facing difficulties for making provision of revenue expenditure under the plan, particularly;

(c) if so, whether Union government propose to provide additional Central assistance to State like Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) has not recommended plan revenue deficit grant to States.

(b) to (d) The total devolution to States under Tenth Finance Commission during 1995–2000 is estimated to be Rs. 2,26,643 crore as compared to Rs. 1,06,036 crore recommended by Ninth Finance Commission (NFC) for the period 1990–95. The total devolution to Orissa as per the recommendation of TFC for 1995–2000 is estimated to be Rs. 9706.55 crore as compared to Rs. 5523.04 crore recommended by NFC over the preceding quin quennium 1990–95. There is adequate increase in the total devolution to States including Orissa State as recommended by TFC during 1995–2000.

The recommendation of TFC have already been accepted by Government of India. Accordingly the devolution of resources from Centre to States during 1995–2000 would be as per the recommendations of TFC.

The requirement of resources for funding the Annual plans of States is assessed by Planning Commission in consultation with States. The annual plan of Orissa for 1997–98 as finalised by Planning Commission is fully funded. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government of India to give additional Central assistance to the State in addition to what has already been allocated by Planning Commission.

Financial Scams Unearthed by CBI

558. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of financial scams in banks, Government offices etc. have been unearthed by the CBI during 1997 (upto November 1);

(b) the names of these banks/bodies and the amount involved in each case; and

(c) the action taken in this regard and the amount expected to be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ)

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Sick Industries in Bihar

559. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the big sicks industries in Bihar;

(b) the date from which they have been closed down and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to revive some valley Portland Cement Factory;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be revived;

(e) whether the Union government proposed to revive various sick industries in Bihar; and

(f) if so, the industry wise steps taken by the Union Government for reviving those industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f) : Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country in compiled by the Reserve bank of India. According to the latest report, at the end of March, 1996, there were 56 non-SSI sick units in Bihar. These are mainly Engineering, Electrical, Sugar, Textiles, Paper, Iron & Steel and Chemical Units.

A number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness.

The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of industrial sickness which, inter-alia, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India for Banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under Sick industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity fund, etc.

[English]

Cable Theft in CCI

560. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY based pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of theft of cable worth Rs. 5 lakhs has occured in Nayagaon (Madhya Pradesh) unit of Cement Corporation of Indian in the first week of October, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such incidents of theft of cable and other items have occurred earlier also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) An incident of theft of cable took place at Nayagaon Cement Factory in the night of 2/3rd October, 97. Copper conductor power cable of about 50 Mtrs. length, worth around Rs. 1.05 lakhs was stolen. The insulation material of the stolen cable has since been recovered by the police.

(c) : Yes, Sir.

(d) The details for Nayagaon unit for the last few years are as follows:—

1993–94	—	Theft of items worth Rs. 56,000 took place.
1994–95	—	Theft of items worth Rs. 29,000 took place.
1995–96	—	Nill.
1996–97	—	Nill.
1997–98	—	as at (a) above.

In all cases of theft immediately FIR was lodged with police. In addition, necessary remedial measures including strengthening the security in the theft prone area, improving lighting etc. were taken to avoid occurrence of such incidents. Items worth Rs. 20,000 were recovered against the theft which took place in 1993–94.

Gazitiland Disaster

561. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the equiry committee which was constituted to enquire into Gazitiland mines disaster has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a).

Nationalisation of Pahargora Coal Mines

562. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been received by the Government for Nationalisation of Pahargora Coal Mine at Salanpur in Burdwan District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken in the matter;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise is view of answer given to para (a) of the question.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal for Domestic Use

563. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal is provided to the labourers working in Western Coal Fields Limited of Coal India Limited for domestic purposes;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any reports that most of the labourers sell this coal to the coal trader;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether instead of this coal L.P.G. connection are likely to be provided to the labourers; and